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Applicants : Chong-Jin Oon, Wei-Ning Chen,
Ai-Lin Leong and Shiuah Koh

Serial No. : 09/362,394 Examiner: D. Wortman

Filed : July 28, 1999 Group Art Unit: 1648

For : DETECTION OF HUMAN HEPATITIS B VIRUS SURFACE
ANTIGEN MUTANTS BY SPECIFIC AMPLIFICATION
AND ITS APPLICATION ON GENE CHIP

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
October 30, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
AND CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e) (1)

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following document which is listed on Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit A**) and is also listed below. Copies of the documents listed below as items 1-11 are attached hereto as Exhibits **1-11**.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,629,153 issued May 13, 1997 to Michael Urdea (**Exhibit 1**);
2. PCT International Application No. PCT/US92/11165, filed December 22, 1999, International Publication No. WO 93/13120, published July 8, 1993 (**Exhibit 2**);
3. PCT International Application No. PCT/FR94/00483, filed April 27, 1994, International Publication No. WO 95/11307, published April 27, 1995 (**Exhibit 3**);

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4. PCT International Application No. PCT/US96/08429, filed June 3, 1996, International Publication No. WO 96/40996, published December 19, 1996 **(Exhibit 4)**;
5. European Patent Application No. 0,020,251A2, published December 10, 1980 **(Exhibit 5)**;
6. Cariani, et al., (1995) "Emergence of Hepatitis Virus S Gene Mutant in a Liver Transplant Recipient", Journal of Medical Virology, 47: 410-415 **(Exhibit 6)**;
7. Chiou, et al., (1997) "Altered Antigenicity of 'a' Determinant Variants of Hepatitis", Journal of General Virology, 78: 2639-2645 **(Exhibit 7)**;
8. Ireland, et al., (1999) "Reactivity of In Vitro Expressed Hepatitis B Surface Antigen Variants In Commercial Diagnostic Assays", GenBank NCBI Accession No. AF134137, **(Exhibit 8)**;
9. Pult, et al., (1994) "Hepatitis B Virus Complete Genome With Insertion In Core Promoter, 198bp Insertion in X-ORF", GenBank NCBI Accession No. X98075, **(Exhibit 9)**;
10. Pult, et al., (1997) "A Hepatitis B Virus Mutant With a New Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 1 Binding Site Emerging in Transplant-Transmitted Fulminant Hepatitis B", Hepatology, 25: 1507-1515 **(Exhibit 10)**; and
11. Wands, et al., (1992) "Molecular Pathogenesis of Liver Disease During Persistent Hepatitis B Virus Infection", Seminars in Liver Disease, 12: 252-264 **(Exhibit 11)**.

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CONCLUSION

Above-listed references 1-11 were cited in an International Search Report on September 10, 2001 issued in connection with PCT/IB00/01079, filed July 28, 2000 which is a foreign counterpart of the subject application. A copy of the Search Report is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The remaining items listed in the search report were cited in an International Disclosure Statement filed on April 20, 2000 in connection with the subject application.

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1), each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone either of them at the number provided below.

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § § 1.97(c)(1) and 1.97 (e)(1), no fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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